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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original):

A method for the recuperation of septic tank content using a mobile recuperation unit having first and second reservoirs, the content of the septic tank including sludge, supernatant and scum, said method comprising:

transferring a portion of the supernatant from the septic tank to the first reservoir of the mobile recuperation unit;

transferring the remainder of the content of the septic tank into the second reservoir of the mobile recuperation unit;

filtering the supernatant; and

transferring the filtered supernatant from the first reservoir back to the septic tank.

Claim 2 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 1, wherein said filtering step is done during the transfer of the supernatant from the septic tank to the first reservoir of the mobile recuperation unit.

Claim 3 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 1, wherein said filtering step is done during the transfer of the supernatant from the first reservoir back to the septic tank.

Claim 4 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 1, wherein said transferring step of the supernatant from the septic tank to the first reservoir of the mobile recuperation unit is done from the top, below the scum level, to the bottom, above the sludge level, of the septic tank.

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Claim 5 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 4, wherein said transferring step of the supernatant from the septic tank to the first reservoir of the mobile recuperation unit is done until the amount of suspended matter in the supernatant transferred exceeds a predetermined level.

Claim 6 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 1, wherein said transfer steps are done by at least one pump.

Claim 7 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 6, wherein said at least one pump includes a vacuum pump.

Claim 8 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 1, wherein said filtering step is done using a filtering method selected from the group consisting of bag filtering, membrane filtering, sand filtering, cartridge filtering, centrifugal filtering and clarifying filtering.

Claim 9 (original):

The method for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of pre-filtering the supernatant during the transfer of the supernatant from the septic tank to the first reservoir.

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Claim 10 (currently amended):

A system for the recuperation of septic tank content including sludge, supernatant and scum, said system comprising:

a first reservoir;

a second reservoir;

a bidirectional pump assembly having at least one pump suction pipe having a proximate end connected to a first port thereof; said pump assembly having a second port connected to said first reservoir and a third port connected to said second reservoir;

a filtering assembly provided between said second port and said first reservoir;

whereby, said bidirectional pump assembly ~~is so controlled as to pump~~ pumps the supernatant from the septic tank into said first reservoir, ~~filter~~ filters this supernatant via said filtering assembly, ~~pump~~ pumps the sludge and the scum to said second reservoir and ~~pump~~ pumps back the filtered supernatant to the septic tank to thereby reduce the portion of the content of the septic tank remaining in the recuperation system.

Claim 11 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 10, wherein said bidirectional pump assembly further includes a fourth port connected to the bottom of said first reservoir.

Claim 12 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 10, wherein said filtering assembly includes a filter selected from the group consisting of bag filters, membrane filters, sand filters, cartridge filters, centrifugal filters and clarifier filters.

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Claim 13 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 12, wherein said filter is a membrane filter and includes a continuous biodegradable filtering medium; said recuperation system further comprising a shredder used to shred used portions of said biodegradable filtering medium and to place the shredded medium in said second reservoir.

Claim 14 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 10, wherein one of said at least one pump suction pipe has a distal end provided with a nozzle head having lateral apertures.

Claim 15 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 14, wherein said nozzle head further includes a generally conical shaped end.

Claim 16 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 10, further comprising a controller electrically connected to said bidirectional pump assembly and to said filtering assembly; said controller being configured to control the operation of these assemblies.

Claim 17 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 10, wherein said filtering assembly includes pre-filter.

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Claim 18 (currently amended):

A system for the recuperation of septic tank content including sludge, supernatant and scum, said system comprising:

- a first reservoir;
- a first pump having an inlet and an outlet open to said first reservoir;
- a first pump suction pipe having a proximate end connected to said inlet of said first pump;
- a filtering assembly associated with said first pump suction pipe;
- a second reservoir;
- a second pump having an inlet and an outlet open to said second reservoir;
- a second pump suction pipe having a proximate end connected to said inlet of said second pump;

whereby, a) said first pump ~~may be so controlled as to pump pumps~~ the supernatant from the septic tank to said first reservoir, b) said filtering assembly ~~may be so controlled to filter~~ filters the pumped supernatant, c) said second pump ~~may be so controlled as to pump pumps~~ the sludge and the scum to said second reservoir, and d) said first pump ~~may be so controlled as to pump pumps~~ back the filtered supernatant to the septic tank to thereby reduce the portion of the content of the septic tank remaining in the recuperation system.

Claim 19 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 18, further comprising a controller electrically connected to said first and second pumps and to said filtering assembly; said controller being configured to control the operation thereof.

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Claim 20 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 19, further comprising a sensor associated with said first pump suction pipe and connected to said controller to supply information about the turbidity of the pumped supernatant.

Claim 21 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 20, further comprising a bypass assembly controlled by said controller, said bypass assembly being so associated to said first pump suction pipe as to divert the flow thereof from said first reservoir to said second reservoir upon detection of a turbidity level above a predetermined level.

Claim 22 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 18, wherein said filtering assembly includes a filter selected from the group consisting of bag filters, membrane filters, sand filters, cartridge filters, centrifugal filters and clarifier filter.

Claim 23 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 22, wherein said filtering assembly further includes a pre-filter.

Claim 24 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 18, wherein said first pump suction pipe has a distal end provided with a nozzle head having lateral apertures.

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Claim 25 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content recited in claim 24, wherein said nozzle head further includes a generally conical shaped end.

Claim 26 (original):

The system for the recuperation of septic tank content as recited in claim 24, wherein said nozzle head further includes a floating element configured and sized to keep said lateral apertures below the level of the scum.

Claims 27 & 28: (cancelled)

Claim 29 (new):

A method for the recuperation of tank content using a mobile recuperation unit having first and second reservoirs, the content of the tank including sludge, supernatant and scum, said method comprising:

- transferring a portion of the supernatant from the tank to the first reservoir of the mobile recuperation unit;

- transferring the remainder of the content of the tank into the second reservoir of the mobile recuperation unit;

- filtering the supernatant; and

- transferring the filtered supernatant from the first reservoir back to the tank.

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Claim 30 (new):

A system for the recuperation of tank content including sludge, supernatant and scum, said system comprising:

a first reservoir;

a second reservoir;

a bidirectional pump assembly having at least one pump suction pipe having a proximate end connected to a first port thereof; said pump assembly having a second port connected to said first reservoir and a third port connected to said second reservoir;

a filtering assembly provided between said second port and said first reservoir;

whereby, said bidirectional pump assembly pumps the supernatant from the septic tank into said first reservoir, filters this supernatant via said filtering assembly, pumps the sludge and the scum to said second reservoir and pumps back the filtered supernatant to the tank to thereby reduce the portion of the content of the tank remaining in the recuperation system.

Claim 31 (new):

A system for the recuperation of tank content including sludge, supernatant and scum, said system comprising:

a first reservoir;

a first pump having an inlet and an outlet open to said first reservoir;

a first pump suction pipe having a proximate end connected to said inlet of said first pump;

a filtering assembly associated with said first pump suction pipe;

a second reservoir;

a second pump having an inlet and an outlet open to said second reservoir;

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a second pump suction pipe having a proximate end connected to said inlet of said second pump;

whereby, a) said first pump pumps the supernatant from the tank to said first reservoir, b) said filtering assembly filters the pumped supernatant, c) said second pump pumps the sludge and the scum to said second reservoir, and d) said first pump pumps back the filtered supernatant to the tank to thereby reduce the portion of the content of the tank remaining in the recuperation system.